



Council Meeting: June 12, 2012

SUBJECT: Appointment to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) requests that cities appoint members to its Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The VTA is a regional transportation agency responsible for major transportation capital improvements, transit service, and state, federal, and regional funding allocations in Santa Clara County. The VTA BPAC is a 16-member committee that advises VTA's Board of Directors on planning and funding issues for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Sunnyvale has been asked to renew its appointment to the VTA BPAC. The appointee will serve a two-year term, beginning in July, 2012 and ending in June, 2014, although members may remain seated until the local jurisdiction makes a new appointment. The VTA has asked that the appointee not be a Councilmember or a staff member, and that the appointee preferably be a "representative" of the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. Mr. David Simons has served as Sunnyvale's representative to the VTA BPAC since October 1998 and is a member in good standing.

The Sunnyvale BPAC developed a recommendation for Sunnyvale's appointee to serve on the VTA BPAC at its April 19, 2012 meeting. David Simons is recommended for re-appointment by the Sunnyvale BPAC. The VTA Board Clerk has specifically directed that alternates not be designated.

BACKGROUND

The VTA BPAC was formed in 1998 to advise the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors on matters related to bicycling and walking. Typical duties involve review of regional plans related to bicycling and walking, review of funding proposals for projects, and consideration of specialized issues of regional or cross-jurisdictional significance. Mr. David Simons has been Sunnyvale's representative to the VTA BPAC since its inception.

EXISTING POLICY

Land Use and Transportation Element R1.3.1. Participate in intergovernmental activities related to regional and sub-regional land use and transportation planning in order to advance the City's interests.

DISCUSSION

The VTA has requested that the City renew its appointment to the VTA BPAC. The City can either re-appoint David Simons, its current representative, or select a new member who will represent the City BPAC. The BPAC has considered this issue at their April 19, 2012 meeting and voted unanimously to recommend the re-appointment of David Simons (meeting minutes, Attachment A). The BPAC expressed confidence in standing representative Simons record as the VTA BPAC representative. The BPAC is interested in considering whether policy or criteria should be developed to guide future nominations and appointments for the position and will consider this at a future BPAC meeting.

Mr. Simons is willing to continue to serve on the VTA BPAC.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk. The BPAC also held a public hearing on this item at its April 19, 2012 meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

- A. Appoint David Simons to the VTA BPAC for a two-year term
- B. Select a different appointment from the membership of the City BPAC to serve on the VTA BPAC

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the BPAC recommend Alternative #1: City Council appoint David Simons to serve a two year term on the VTA BPAC.

Reviewed by:

Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works

Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Approved by:

Gary Luebbers
City Manager

Attachment

A. Approved BPAC April 19, 2012 Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENT A



ATTACHMENT A

SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2012

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on April 19, 2012 with Commission Chair Ralph Durham presiding. The meeting was held in the West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

Members Present: Cathy Switzer
David Gandrud
James Manidakos
Ralph Durham

Members Absent: Angela Rausch (excused)
Andrea Stawitcke (excused)

Council Liaison Present: Chris Moylan

Staff Present: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Division Manager, Department of Public Works

Visitors: Kevin Jackson, Horizon 2035 Committee member
David Simons, VTA BPAC Representative
Garth Williams, resident
Ron Salas, resident
Alex Bonne, resident
Jennifer Olsen, resident
Jeff Olsen, resident
Grace Sun, resident

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Jackson discussed bike rodeos at Ellis School and a pending event on April 25 at Sunnyvale Middle School. He announced that the County/City Safe Routes to School project will be holding a workshop on April 27 at 9:30 at the Community Center, and that a bike ride is being planned for the Ponderosa School area on May 19, and volunteers are welcomed. He stated that Cherry Chase School is holding a Fun Bike night on April 27th at 6:30 PM. He announced the City's Fit and Fun Fair and volunteered to help with bike helmet fitting. He stated that Mary 9 would be Bike to School Day. He requested volunteers for bike parking and a Heritage bike ride for the Centennial celebration in August. He also stated that a Drive Less Challenge was occurring.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the March 15, 2012 Meeting
- 1.B) Approval of the 2012 BPAC Calendar Update

Item 1.A was pulled by Vice-Chair Manidakos.

Motion by Manidakos, second by Switzer to approve Item 1B of the Consent Calendar approved 4-0.

Item 1A, Approval of Draft Minutes of the March 15, 2012 Meeting was considered. Vice-Chair Manidakos indicated that under Public Hearing item 2 that he supports Bus Rapid Transit with dedicated lanes if it is appropriately designed and implemented to retain and enhance access across El Camino Real at currently unsignalized left turn access points. He also clarified that his concern regarding greenhouse gas analysis was the precision of the analysis, not the accuracy.

Motion by Manidakos, second by Switzer to approve the minutes as amended. Motion approved, 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Garth Williams, a resident and member of the Friends of the Stevens Creek Trail Board of Directors, distributed an annual report and notified Commissioners of a Creek clean up event.

Alex Bonne indicated support for bike lanes on Pastoria Avenue while retaining on-street parking.

Kevin Jackson noted that bike parking demand at the library has overwhelmed the supply of bike parking. He expressed concerns about distribution of the BPAC meeting packet.

Ron Salas commented on Pastoria Avenue bike lanes and the impact of parking removal on residents.

Jeff Olsen commented on Pastoria Avenue bike lanes and the potential impacts of parking removal on the speed of vehicles and the perception of bicyclists by residents.

Dave Simons provided information on a VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines update and information pertaining to road treatments that may be applicable to Pastoria Avenue.

Alex Bonne comments that bike lanes on Evelyn Avenue appeared to be being removed.

Patrick Grant commented the status of state legislation to consider safe passing distances between motor vehicles and bicycles.

Grace Sun commented on that residents on Pastoria Avenue had constructed accessory units which increased the need for on-street parking for residents which would preserve property values. She supports a bike boulevard to slow traffic.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

At the direction of the Chair the agenda was taken out of order. At the recommendation of staff, the Chair directed that item 4 be deferred to the May, 2012.

5. ACTION: Appointment of a Member to the Valley Transportation Authority Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

The Commission, staff, and the Commission liaison discussed eligibility and reporting requirements and expectations for the VTA BPAC representative. The standing BPAC membership was polled for interest in serving as the VTA BPAC representative and no members expressed interest.

The public hearing was opened. Kevin Jackson encouraged any potential candidate to understand the long term nature of VTA BPAC issues, and the importance of providing continuity to City representation. The public hearing was closed.

Vice-Chair Manidakos expressed a need to consider policy or criteria for VTA BPAC representation for the City, to consider issues of qualifications, time commitment, and continuity of representation over time.

The Chair suggested recommended standing representative David Simons be recommended for re-appointment to the VTA BPAC, and that the City BPAC agenda at a later date a discussion of criteria for VTA BPAC representation.

David Simons indicated that he was committed to continued representation as long as possible.

Motion by Manidakos, second by Switzer, to recommend that the City Council re-appoint David Simons as the City of Sunnyvale's representative to the VTA BPAC, and that the City BPAC consider at a later date issues of qualifications, time commitment, and continuity of representation over time for the VTA BPAC representative. Motion passes, 4-0.

Commissioners expressed confidence in standing representative Simons record as the VTA BPAC representative and interest in considering whether policy or criteria should be developed to guide future nominations and appointments for the position.

1. ACTION: Approve Utility Bill Insert Concept

The BPAC made editorial suggestions.

Motion by Manidakos, second by Switzer, to approve the utility bill stuffer in concept and to request that editorial suggestions be addressed.

2. DISCUSSION: Study Issue Brainstorming

The Commission discussed potential study issues.

Commissioner Switzer suggested that the 15 mile per hour speed limit around schools be re-visited.

Vice-Chair Manitakos suggested issues regarding replacing double yellow roadway striping lines with dashed lines; consideration of bicycle and pedestrian level of service criteria; extending vision triangle restrictions at private driveways; and policy on placement of street amenities to assure comfortable access for the disabled.

The public hearing was opened. Kevin Jackson suggested an issue for improving public notification of BPAC meetings. He suggested an issue to identify measures to encourage transformation of streets to primarily transport uses, such as provision of neighborhood parking lots, donation of right of way for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and identification of reasonable limits on automobile ownership or storage at residences. Council liaison Moylan questioned the speaker and indicated that the City already has policies requiring provision of off-street parking for land uses, and providing a certain number of residential off-street spaces. Mr. Jackson indicated that he believed that additional limitations should be considered. The public hearing was closed.

3. DISCUSSION: Bike to Work Day Planning

Staff indicated that the City would sponsor two Bike to Work Day Energizer Stations. Vice-Chair Manitakos and Commissioner Switzer indicated that they would volunteer at the Plaza del Sol station. Commissioner Gandrud indicated that he would volunteer at the Wolfe-El Camino station.

The public hearing was opened. In response to an inquiry by Kevin Jackson, staff indicated that they were in coordination with the Moffett Park Business Association. The public hearing was closed.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Switzer summarized recent Bus Rapid Transit and Pastoria Avenue bike lanes meetings. She indicated that she believes that a bike boulevard for Pastoria Avenue is a reasonable compromise. She indicated that removal of a travel lane on El Camino was a significant discussion item at the Bus Rapid Transit meeting.

Commissioner Gandrud stated that he would found questions at a recent Bus Rapid Transit meeting to be excellent and insightful. He noted that left turn access was a key issue.

Council Liaison Moylan stated that staff's use of the term "lose a travel lane" in the recent Bus Rapid Transit meeting was misleading, and that street space was actually be reallocated to different modes, with bike lanes representing the addition of new travel lanes. He expressed appreciation for the role the BPAC has taken in leading a focus on mobility.

Commissioner Gandrud reported a malfunctioning loop detector at Reed and Sequoia. He asked about the status of the National Bike Registry implementation.

Chair Durham presented information on a street treatment in Cloverdale, California that uses narrow lanes with bike lanes. He summarized a recent report that found that providing bike facilities increases bicycle use.

- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

Staff provided an update on a response to a recent inquiry regarding traffic facilities on school routes in southwest Sunnyvale.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

1. BPAC E-mail messages and/or letters since circulation of the agenda packet of the March 15, 2012 meeting.
2. BPAC Active Items List.

The Information Only items were accepted as submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jack Witthaus
Transportation and Traffic Manager